

BLOC MEETING IN MOSCOW

- I. Eastern European Foreign Ministers began meeting in Moscow 1 February to prepare for 4 February meeting of Political Consultative Committee of Warsaw Pact, which will also be attended by all Defense Ministers.
- A. An agricultural meeting--originally announced reason for the assemblage--opened on 2 February attended by all Eastern European Premiers and Party First Secretaries.
- B. North Koreans and Mongolians already attending agricultural meetings as observers; Chinese, who apparently uninterested in agricultural meetings, are sending observers to Warsaw Pact affair.
1. Level of these delegation suggests Chinese see discussions as largely of European significance.
- II. This is first such high level assemblage of Warsaw Pact since May 1958; appears to have been called in some haste; timing probably due Khrushchev's heavy schedule.
- A. 1958 meeting used as forum for announcing withdrawal of Soviet forces from Rumania, reduction Soviet forces in Hungary and troop reductions by Satellites.
- B. Also at this meeting Khrushchev made his only explicit warning that missile bases might be set up in East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland to counter NATO moves.

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- III. Khrushchev probably called current meetings to provide forum for demonstrating bloc solidarity during pre-summit period on Soviet proposals for disarmament, Berlin, and a German peace treaty.
- IV. At conclusion Bloc leaders likely to announce readiness to take appropriate military measures in Eastern Europe--possibly including a request for stationing Soviet forces with rockets on their territories--to counter West Germany's alleged policy of nuclear rearmament; also
- A. USSR's decision to reduce its armed forces will probably be endorsed.
 - B. Plans probably also will be considered for what Khrushchev described [REDACTED] as a "proportionate" reduction in Soviet forces in Eastern Europe.
 - C. Conference may also announce proposed cuts in Eastern European forces.
 - D. Important internal Bloc matters probably also being discussed.

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